

Jonene Bernhardt's Testimony on SB 46
Senate Judiciary Committee
February 11, 2009

SENATE JUDICIARY
EXHIBIT NO. SB 20
DATE 2/11/09
BILL NO. SB 46

Good morning! My name is Jonene Bernhardt from Kalispell. I stand here in support of SB 46. I have given birth to two very premature babies, one at 27 weeks and another at 31 weeks. They are both beautiful gifts from God (see picture below). My daughter, Alicia, was born when I was only 6 months' pregnant! I submit to you that Alicia was who she was even before she was full-term. She didn't have to wait 9 months to have everything she needed to be a person.

Unfortunately some women and girls might abort their babies at this time in the pregnancy, when the babies could survive and thrive if allowed to be born! The State of Montana does have a compelling interest to protect all its citizens. I believe this means protecting expectant mothers and their unborn children. Not only would an abortion kill an unborn child (like Alicia), but it harms the mother psychologically and puts her body at risk of physical harm. As Montana Senators, please do everything you can to give unborn babies like Alicia a chance.

Today that means supporting SB 46. I believe that having laws to protect expectant mothers and their babies against the horrors of abortion overrides a woman's right to a private decision, especially when so much is at stake.

Please support SB 46. Thank you for considering my testimony!



Alicia and Caleb Bernhardt from Kalispell, Montana
Beautiful kids that were born months early but have survived and thrived